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U.S. HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY
Peter T. King (R-NY), Chairman
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Chairman King, Deputy Secretary Jackson discuss new port security measures, legislation
CBP displays new mobile Radiation Portal Monitors (RPMs)

Washington, DC (Tuesday, April 25, 2006)—Today, Committee on Homeland Security Chairman Peter T. King (R-NY) and Members of the Committee met with U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Deputy Secretary Michael P. Jackson, as well as officials from U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office (DNDO), to discuss new port security measures and legislation.

During the event, CBP displayed two new mobile Radiation Portal Monitors (RPMs). The equipment represents the latest in port security technology.

"At the Committee on Homeland Security, port security remains our top priority," King said. "We must do everything in our power to prevent another terrorist attack on U.S. soil. That means working with DHS to strengthen our domestic security measures, improving capabilities to target high risk containers, and providing our ports with the most advanced security technology, such as mobile Radiation Portal Monitors."

"This new technology reflects the significant progress we have been making. We will continue to work together and strengthen our partnerships to further safeguard our cargo, ships, and waterways," said Deputy Secretary Jackson. "Our multi-layered defense requires a team effort at all levels of law enforcement, with industry and our international partners. In this, DHS is very much grateful for the support we receive from Congress, and we look forward to continue working closely with Chairman King and his committee as they proceed this week to mark up important legislation that will strengthen port security."

On Wednesday, Chairman King will convene a Full Committee markup to consider port security legislation entitled the "Security and Accountability For Every (SAFE) Port Act." This bipartisan bill addresses port security defenses within and beyond U.S. ports, including enhancing security at United States ports, tracking and protecting containers en route to the United States, and preventing threats from reaching the U.S.

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Among other measures, the bill provides a total of $2.4 billion in federal funding to enhance security at seaports nationwide, and requires DHS to deploy nuclear and radiological detection systems at all domestic seaports.

"Port security is perhaps the most important issue that our Committee will address this year," King said. "The SAFE Port Act is a comprehensive, bipartisan bill that takes the necessary steps to secure our ports and our homeland. I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to pass this important piece of legislation."

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